

Integrate te reo Māori and tikanga Māori into your classroom programme

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Co-design a culturally sustaining environment' from the Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Includes:

Value tikanga Māori in the classroom

Design for engagement

Support ākonga to enjoy and express their cultural identity

Design culturally responsive learning contexts

Co-construct learning

Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Strategy: [Co-design a culturally sustaining environment](#)

Suggestion: [Integrate te reo Māori and tikanga Māori into your classroom programme](#)

Date

13 September 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/consider-ways-to-integrate-te-reo-maori-and-tikanga-maori-into-your-classroom-programme

Value tikanga Māori in the classroom

Teachers explain the need to incorporate te ao Māori, tikanga, and te reo Māori into learning contexts to include and engage all ākonga.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/113877060>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[He reo tupu, He reo ora \(NZ\)](#)

<http://hereoora.tki.org.nz/Videos/How-to-plan-for-te-reo-Maori/Tikanga-Maori-in-the-classroom>

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Design for engagement

Wayne Robinson shares how he builds a culturally responsive classroom based on respect and connection. Spaces for making kai, reflecting on ancestors, and opportunities for karakia support his learners sense of belonging.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/225192007>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education, inclusive education videos \(NZ\)](#)
<https://vimeo.com/album/2950799>

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Support ākonga to enjoy and express their cultural identity

Article three guarantees Māori oritētanga (equality). Where Pākehā symbols of status in uniform are expected (e.g., a tie), ākonga Māori should be able wear Māori symbols of status instead (e.g., taonga).

The Human Rights Commission

Source:

[School uniform guidelines – Te Kāhui Tika Tangata | The Human Rights Commission](#)

https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/5916/5344/0946/School_uniform_guidelines_WEB_VERSION.pdf

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Design culturally responsive learning contexts

Creating culturally responsive learning contexts and co-constructing learning enables every student to bring their experiences into the classroom context.

- Provide opportunities for ākonga Māori who speak te reo Māori to teach the class some basic vocabulary.
- Include holidays and festivals that are important to your ākonga Māori in learning activities.
- Establish classroom communication practices that include te reo Māori.
- Support ākonga Māori to understand new vocabulary or unfamiliar instructions by providing visual cues and translating key words into te reo Māori.
- Identify how you can specifically include a Māori component into curriculum topics.
- Engage with the Māori school community and whānau to bring their knowledge and expertise into the school.
- Take the time to learn how to pronounce your students' names correctly. Ask students to say their name, listen carefully, and repeat it until you know it. Model the correct pronunciation of students' names to the class so that all students use the correct pronunciation.

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Co-construct learning

Encourage learners to bring their own experiences into the classroom context and co-construct learning. Their experiences have validity when they become part of the learning process.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/113877186>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[Te Mangōroa \(NZ\)](#)

<http://temangoroa.tki.org.nz/Video-stories/TMK-Culture-counts-2>

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Useful resources

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